

St. Croix Rockhounds
Community Education & Recreation
Independent School District #834
1875 Greeley Street
Stillwater, MN 55082



November, 1999

First Class

Please send exchange bulletins to:

Doug Olson, Editor
211 Interlachen Way
Stillwater, MN 55082

Meetings are held 7:15 PM at the Stonebridge Elementary School on W. Elm St., Stillwater, MN.

November 16th - is this month's meeting date.



The Program is: Vic Martinson's trip to Brazil.

St. Croix Rockhound's

LEAVERITE NEWS

Vol. 24, Issue 9; November, 1999

Member of:



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ST.CROIX ROCKHOUNDS

MEETINGS: Club meetings are held the third TUESDAY of each month at Stonebridge Elementary School on W. Elm. St. in Stillwater, MN at 7:15 P.M.. Everyone is welcome.

MEMBERSHIP: Full membership for a single person over 16 is \$7.50 per year. Family membership is \$10.50 per year.

OFFICERS:

President	Freya Kask	(651) 777-6371
Vice President	Dick Blom	(651) 735-2323
Secretary	Karen Barenz	(651) 776-8525
Treasurer	John Parsons	(651) 257-2724
Program Chairperson	Pete Rodewald	(715) 425-5561
Show Chairperson	LeRoy Betlach	(715) 425-5948
Refreshments	Helen Betlach	(715) 425-5948
Librarian	Jeanne Blom	(651) 735-2323
Historian	John Parsons	(651) 257-2724
Sunshine Committee	Marie Newlander MN	(651) 439-7809
	Esther Rodewald WI	(715) 425-5561
Tour Director	Karen Barenz	(651) 776-8525
Liaison Officer	Freya Kask	(651) 777-6371
Newsletter Editor	Doug Olson	(651) 430-9035

The purpose of our organization is to bring together rock and mineral enthusiasts on a regular basis through membership and through pooling of individual knowledge, talents and skills, to improve the lapidary skills of participating members. Affiliation: American Federation of Mineralogical Societies and Midwest Federation of Mineralogical and Geological Societies.

COMING UP!

November 16th - St Croix Rockhounds meeting, 7:15 pm at the Stonebridge Elementary School. The scheduled program is a talk by Vic Martinson about his trip to Brazil.

Coming Attractions

Nov 12-14: Fox Valley Mineral, Fossil, Gem Show, Northland Mall, 900 W. Northland Ave in Appleton, WI

Nov 27-28: Anoka Gem & Mineral Club Show at Apache Plaza Mall, 3800 Silver Lake Rd, Minneapolis

Dec 8: Saint Croix Rockhounds X-mas party at the Old Country Buffet in Maplewood. 6 pm.

Jan 23-29: Annual Gem and Mineral Show in Quartzsite, AZ

Jan 30-Feb12: Arizona Mineral and Fossil Show in Tucson, AZ

Mar 11-12 - Anoka Gem & Mineral Club Show at Apache Plaza Mall

Apr 1-2: Neville Public Museum Geology Club Show in Green Bay Wisconsin

May 6-7: Heart of WI Gem & Min Soc Show at Marshfield Senior High School Fieldhouse, Marshfield, WI.

NOTE: the artwork of Rock Elves in this newsletter were done by Cassondra Olson

Minutes of the Saint Croix RockHounds

October 19th, 1999

The Meeting was brought to order by President Freya Kask who noted that attendance was good at the club show.

Minutes of the September 21st meeting were approved as printed in the October Leaverite News. MSP

Treasurer's report was given by John Parsons. The club has \$1020.25 in savings and \$213.94 in checking giving a total of \$1242.29. The receipts from last month's silent auction had not be entered yet.

Show chairman LeRoy Betlach said that the October 16th show at the St. Croix Mall was a success. There were lots of young people and lots of questions some of which were answered. He brought up the question of perhaps holding just one show a year. Shows require planning six months in advance for major magazine advertisements, newspapers only 2 weeks. He advertised in 17 newspapers and on 5 radio stations. He also thought a Spring show would be easier to produce than the fall show. The idea of the club holding only one show a year was tabled for further reflection.

LeRoy thanked Earl and Freya Kask for doing a good job "manning" the club table for the show.

Refreshments for the October meeting were provided by Phyllis White and Doug Olson. Freya and Earl Kask and Bob Carlson will provide refreshments for the November meeting.

No historian report.

No sunshine committee report but it was noted that John Parsons has been ill but is apparently now feeling better.

Newsletter editor Doug Olson reports that there is no Silent Auction tonight as indicated in the Newsletter, as a matter of fact he did not know what or if there is a program for tonight.

Librarian Jeanne Blom noted that library books are available and she has some on display. She also has some lists for available library materials for those who need it.

Newsletter editor Doug Olson asked for field trip reports and any other stories or articles for the Leaverite News.

Freya Kask reported on a letter from the Science Museum of MN requesting volunteers to man the Collector's Corner of the museum. They are also looking for materiel donations. She asked that the letter be reprinted in the newsletter.

John Parsons has a letter from a gentleman who has a large, mounted, granite rolling rock to sell. He also reported on a trip to rock shows in Denver, CO. On the trip he picked up an extra copy of "Rockhounding in Colorado" which he is donating to the club library. He also did some wandering in the hills but found nothing, but he did find that Sandy does not like going down steep grades with trucks right behind. He also brought in samples of Petersite (which came from South Africa and now comes out of China) and ammolite.

X-mas party reservations at Old Country Buffet in Maplewood will be made by Freya Kask in the second week of December (ed. - Dec 8th at 6 pm).

LeRoy Betlach brought some materiel to show. He also thanked Phyllis for donating a display case of rough demands and for the gems to be given out as door prizes. It was decided to hold back many of them for gifts at the x-mas party.

John and Sandy Parsons celebrated their 30th Anniversary by giving each other rings - a large fire agate for John and alexanderite for Sandy.

Door prize winners were: Adam Von Riedel, Reuben Shalander, Sandy Parsons, Kevin Von Riedel, Robert Olson, Lauryn Von Riedel, Dave Klinkhamer, Helen Betlach and Earl Kask.

Respectfully submitted by **Doug Olson** for Karen Barenz, Secretary

X-Mas Party

The Saint Croix Rockhounds annual X-mas dinner will be held at the Maplewood Old Country Buffet (near the Maplewood Mall) on December 8th. Bring your social skills and your appetite for an enjoyable evening.

Notes from the Show Chairman for the Saint Croix Rockhound Show on October 16th, 1999

by LeRoy Betlach

Reuben and June Shalander displayed a great selection of Lake Superior Agates, including eye agates, as well as , arrow heads. They also had a mineral display of Brazilian slabs, Montana slabs and a collection of tiger eye furnished by Gordon and Gladys Weikert.

John and Sandy Parsons displayed a large collection of agates and petrified wood. They also had fossils highlighted by ammonite from Albera and Morocco, a large trilobite, and dinosaur teeth from the Sahara Desert. There were large Brazilian agate slabs and petrified wood from New Zealand, Brazil, Nevada, Utah and Madagascar. Petrified pine cones, a carbonized walnut from Michigan, two spheres of petrified wood and an agate specimen from Germany.

Dick Blom demonstrated how to make a rock window using translucent rock slabs. Jeanne Blom showed Missouri lace agate and a collection of geodes.

Thanks to Freya and Earl Kask, our club table was very well taken care of. They answered lots of questions and handed out information about our club, meetings and shows. Thanks again.

University of River Falls - thanks to Jessica Hayson, Tara Wojtowicz and Karolyn Knoll, three students for attending the show (filling in for Bill Cordua). They displayed a large variety of specimens. A favorite among visitors was the large geode with quartz crystals, found near Keokuk, Iowa. The entire collection ranged from minerals, such as a large calcite sample, to the Wisconsin State rock which is red granite found near Mosinee, WI.

LeRoy and Helen Betlach displayed several collections, mostly found on their trips, including petrified wood, some polished, from the Dakotas, Montana and Wyoming; Dugway Geodes from Utah; chalcedony from Southwest Utah; turritella from Wyoming; topaz from Utah and Mexico; rose quartz from Colorado; barite from Missouri; and sandstone formations from South Dakota.

The Saint Croix Rockhounds would like to extend their sincere condolences to Bill Cordua for the recent death of his mother.



Stolen Gems

Hint – Anyone who works with flat silver in making jewelry will soon realize that sooner or later every scratch in the metal has to be removed. Common transparent contact paper from the dime store, the sticky kind with the removable backing, is the answer. Place it on each side of the silver sheet for protection. It accepts and holds an India ink pen line and will not pull loose when you are sawing through it and the silver. *from Serendipity Gems via Rock Rustler's News via 3M Rockhound News 9/99*

Borax Lake, Oregon – is the only place where the Borax Chub is found. Probably the finest and most spectacular fossils found in Harney County occur in a deposit of snow-white diatomaceous earth in the Trout Creek area southeast of Fields. A number of species of the Miocene flora have been obtained by commercial collectors. The leaf imprint, nearly black, stands out in clear contrast against the snow-whit matrix. Official rockhounding maps are available from the Highland Rock & Gift Shop in Burns. *from Charlene Hansen via the Drift via Achates 10/99*

Hint – to tumble soft material that is hard to polish, start with the second coarsest grit. Fill the tumbler to 3/4 to 7/8 full so stones will roll and not fall. About 1/4 the normal amount of cerium oxide polishes better than the usual polishes. *from Owyhee Gem via the Polished Slab 10/99*

Hint – Cleaning crystals in acid solution? Put crystals in a plastic mesh bag, such as cherries and grapes come in, and hang them in the acid by a plastic hook or tied to a wooden stick laid across the container. A number of bags can be used at one time, and you can inspect them at will. Just remove and dip them in cool water. If they're not ready they can be put back easily into the solution. *from the Pegmatite via Agate Picker 10/99*

Rockhound Ailments:

Cabochon Convulsions - fits that are commonly associated with the grinding of fingertips and knuckles

Faceter's Fever - an uncommon brightness of eye, characterized by symmetrical refraction of the light emitting therefrom.

Lapidary Lament - also know as post polishum depression; brought on by a discovery of a heretofore unseen fracture after the cab is complete.

Stone Tumbler's Tinnitus - a ringing in the ears, curable only by the permanent removal of the tumbler.

Hobby Pocket - most common ailment of all, becoming endemic. It is a deep-seated emptiness brought on by over-exposure to rock shops, supply catalogs, and gem and mineral shows.

from Shop Notes and News 9/99 via Rock Chips 10/99

Friends and Gems - Rockhounds who have been in the hobby for some time begin to realize that the most precious gems they have collected are the friends they have made along the way. Some are still in the rough; some are highly polished; some are dull and colorless until viewed in the right light. And like every gemstone in nature, they also have inclusions, sometimes referred to as flaws. If we enjoy them as they are, realizing that their warmth and beauty make up for their imperfections, if we concentrate on their better aspects, the flaws become insignificant and merely marks of individuality. *from Golden Spike New, via the Yellowstone Deposit via Ft. Lewis Rock Club News via AFMS Newsletter 10/99*

Montana Grizzly Bear Notice – In light of the rising number of human/grizzly bear conflicts, the Montana Department of Fish and Game is advising rock hounds to take extra precautions and keep alert for bears while in the field. We advise that rock hounds wear noisy little bells so as not to startle the bears. We also advise rock hounds to carry pepper spray with them in case of an encounter with a bear. It is also a good idea to watch for fresh signs of bear activity. Rock hounds should recognize the difference between black bear poop and grizzly bear poop. Black bear poop is smaller and contains lots of berries and squirrel fur. Grizzly bear poop has little bells in it and smell like pepper. *from Cuyuna Rock, Gem & Mineral Club via 3m Rockhound News 11/99*

